

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175402

EXDIS - MIL ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEATS LISBON 4179 ACTION DEPT INFO BONN LONDON
MADRID MOSCOW PARIS STOCKHOLM NATO JULY 24TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4179

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO DIA WASHDC AND USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PPD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. MET TODAY (JULY 24) WITH NEW PPD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EMIDIO GUERREIRO. WITH HIS LONG RECORD OF FIGHTING SALAZAR DICTATORSHIP, GUERREIRO HAS BOTH ENHANCED PPD PRESTIGE AND MOVED PARTY'S IMAGE SLIGHTLY TO THE LEFT. HE TOLD ME PPD HAD RUN OUT OF MONEY AND HE WAS DEPARTING TOMORROW ON A FIVE OR SIX DAY TRIP TO FRANCE AND GERMANY IN EFFORT TO RAISE FUNDS.

2. GUERREIRO AGREED WITH ME THAT THIS WAS THE MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR PORTUGAL. HE THOUGHT NEXT FEW DAYS WOULD
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DECIDE WHETHER PORTUGAL WOULD BECOME COMMUNIST-STYLE

DICTATORSHIP OR A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY. HE HAD RECENTLY HELD EXTENSIVE TALKS WITH COSTA GOMES AND VASCO GONCALVES. LATTER HAD TOLD HIM HE WOULD FIGHT TO THE END.

3. GUERREIRO SAW TWO POSSIBLE SCENARIOS. GONCALVES WINS AND MODERATE ELEMENTS LEAVE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND HELP PS AND PPD IN THE OPPOSITION STRUGGLE. UNDER SECOND SCENARIO MODERATES WOULD WIN AND GONCALVES WOULD ATTEMPT TO ENLIST MILITARY ON HIS SIDE. HE WAS HOPEFUL HOWEVER THAT MILITARY WOULD NOT STAND BY A DEFEATED GONCALVES.

4. I ASKED GUERREIRO ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE PRESIDENT WITH WHOM HE HAD HAD SEVERAL LONG MEETINGS. GUERREIRO SAID PRESIDENT HAD TOLD HIM PPD DEMANDS FOR STAYING IN GOVERNMENT WERE PERFECTLY PROPER BUT THAT HE, COSTA GOMES, HAD NO POWER. I POINTED OUT TO GUERREIRO THAT COSTA GOMES'S POSITION COULD BE CRUCIAL IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL VOTE. WHICH WAY DID HE THINK HE WOULD LEAN? GUERREIRO RESPONDED THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO TELL. IF COSTA GOMES THINKS VASCO GONCALVES WILL WIN, HE WILL SUPPORT HIM. IF HE THINKS MODERATES CAN GAIN THE UPPER HAND HE WILL BE ON THEIR SIDE.

5. GUERREIRO SAID ONE PROBLEM IN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL VOTE WAS POSSIBILITY OF THREATS TO MODERATES IN ADVANCE. THIS TACTIC HAD BEEN USED BEFORE BY COMMUNISTS. IN THIS CONNECTION BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME TODAY HE HAS INFORMATION THREE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED DEATH THREATS.

6. ASKED IF IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH COSTA GOMES ANY MENTION HAD BEEN MADE OF AN AMERICAN INVASION PLAN. GUERREIRO SAID COSTA GOMES WAS AWARE OF A NATO MOCK EXERCISE IN WHICH THE BLUES WERE AGAINST THE REDS. SOME WERE INTERPRETING THE REDS TO BE PORTUGUESE. GUERREIRO SAID IT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY DISASTROUS IF U.S. WERE INVOLVED IN ANY INVASION PLANS AGAINST PORTUGAL. I ASSURED HIM WE WERE NOT AND IMPLIED THAT HE SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO EVEN SUGGEST IT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SUCH A THING WAS TOTALLY OUT OF THE QUESTION, AND AGREED TO HELP IN KILLING RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT.

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UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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